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THE  
ENGLISH ANCESTRY  
OF  
REV. JOHN COTTON  
OF BOSTON.

BY H. G. SOMERBY OF LONDON.

REPRINTED FROM THE HERALDIC JOURNAL FOR APRIL, 1868.

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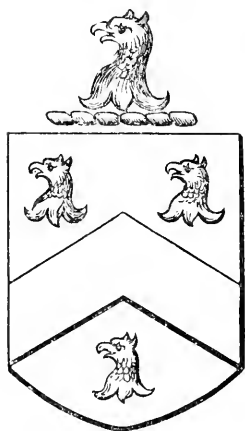




## THE COTTON FAMILY.

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A great interest attaches to the personal history of the Rev. John Cotton, one of the most noted of the ministers of the Massachusetts Colony, and it is with much pleasure that we now lay before our readers a well authenticated



ARMS OF COTTON.\*

account of his ancestry. This pedigree was prepared by a most competent antiquary, H. G. Somerby, Esq., for the Hon. Caleb Cushing; and it is to the kindness of the latter-named gentleman that we are indebted for this opportunity to publish all the essential portion of the record.

The family of Cotton has been one of importance in the county of Cambridge for many generations, several generations being of

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\* Sable, a chevron between three griffin's heads erased, argent, quartering Fleming, Hastings and Doggett. In Drake's History of Boston,

knightly rank, and the senior line was, in 1641, raised to the dignity of Baronet, a title extinguished in 1863.

In Cole's MSS., in the British Museum, Vol. XI., p. 237-345, is an account of the family, prepared in 1763, which has served as a basis for the present pedigree. It is held to be most probable that the family derived its name from Cotton in Kent, but was settled in Cambridgeshire in 1374, when Sir Henry<sup>1</sup> Cotton was living there, who married Anne, dau. and heir of Sir Henry le Fleming.

His son and heir was Thomas<sup>2</sup> Cotton, who was father of Humphrey<sup>3</sup> Cotton, who m. Anne, dau. of Sir Thomas Holbrooke.

The son of this marriage was Sir Thomas<sup>4</sup> Cotton, who m. Alice, dau. and heir of Sir John de Hastings of Landwade, co. Camb., which manor became the chief seat of the Cottons.

John<sup>5</sup> Cotton of Cotton Hall and Landwade, oldest son and heir, married Bridget, dau. of Richard Grace of Norfolk, and d. in 1393, leaving sons, Thomas<sup>6</sup> and Walter,<sup>6</sup> of whom Thomas<sup>6</sup> died unm. Walter<sup>6</sup> Cotton succeeded his brother in 1434, and married Joan, dau. of Sir Robert Reade of Oxfordshire. He built a church at Landwade, and dying 14 May, 1445, was buried

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p. 157, is an engraving of the arms of the totally distinct family of Cotton of Ridware, to which family the author wrongly supposed that John Cotton belonged. This family, however, had exchanged these arms for the coat of the Ridwares, Azure, an eagle displayed argent, and the pedigree is given by Burke (*Extinct Baronetcies*) under Cotton of Connington. The first Baronet was Sir Robert Cotton, who died May 6th, 1631, and who immortalized his name as the collector of the Cottonian Library. The sixth Baronet died *s. p. m.* in 1752, when the baronetcy became extinct. There were several other families of the name but they are in no way connected with the subject of which we treat.

there. His children were William,<sup>7</sup> Walter,<sup>7</sup> Thomas,<sup>7</sup> Edmund<sup>7</sup> and one daughter.

At this point the family was divided into two branches. William,<sup>7</sup> the eldest son, inherited Landwade, and his descendants continue to possess it. The successive generations were William,<sup>7</sup> Vice-Chamberlain to King Henry VI., Thomas,<sup>8</sup> (d. 30 July, 1499), Sir Robert,<sup>9</sup> Sir John,<sup>10</sup> (Sheriff of Camb. and Hunt., d. 21 April, 1593), Sir John,<sup>11</sup> (M. P. for Camb., d. in 1620), Sir John,<sup>12</sup> and Sir John<sup>13</sup> created Baronet 14 July, 1641, whose descendants are easily traced.

This first Baronet, born in 1615, was distinguished for his loyalty, and was obliged to live abroad for some years. He obtained the manor of Maddingley, co. Camb., with his wife Jane, only daughter of Edward Hinde. He died about 1690, and was succeeded by his son Sir John<sup>14</sup> Cotton, M. P. for Camb., who m. Elizabeth Sheldon, and left one son and nine daughters. Sir John-Hinde<sup>15</sup> Cotton succeeded his father, was M. P. and held several high offices. He died 4 Feb., 1752, and was succeeded by his only son, Sir John-Hinde<sup>16</sup> Cotton. This last named d. 23 Jan., 1795, and by his wife Anne Parsons had six sons and three daughters, yet the baronetcy expired in 1863, on the death of his grandson. His second son, Admiral Sir Charles<sup>17</sup> Cotton, inherited the title and dying 24 Feb., 1812, was succeeded by his son, Sir St Vincent<sup>18</sup> Cotton, who died in 1863.

The representation of the senior line must therefore be carried back first to the descendants of Sir Robert<sup>11</sup> Cotton of Wood Ditton, co. Camb., grand-uncle of the first Baronet, or to the Cottons of Clavering, co. Essex, and

Redgrave, co. Suff., descended from William<sup>5</sup> and Edmund<sup>8</sup> Cotton, younger sons of William<sup>7</sup> Cotton of Landwade.

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The second son of Walter<sup>6</sup> Cotton was Walter<sup>7</sup> of Cotton Hall and Trumpington, who by wife Blanch had Clement<sup>5</sup> Cotton, who received Cotton Hall by gift of his grandfather. By his wife Madwen, dau. of — Doggett, he had children, Clement,<sup>9</sup> John,<sup>9</sup> (who left issue), Gregory<sup>9</sup> and Blanche.<sup>9</sup>

Clement<sup>9</sup> Cotton m. Constance, dau. of Nicholas Leverthorpe of Hatfield in Essex, and had Roger,<sup>10</sup> Thomas,<sup>10</sup> d. s. p., George<sup>10</sup> and Jane.<sup>10</sup> Of these, Roger<sup>10</sup> Cotton left numerous descendants.

George<sup>10</sup> Cotton, grandfather of the Rev. John, resided in London, in the parish of St. Giles-without-Cripplegate, where he made his will Oct 14, 1558, proved, Prerogative Court, 21 March, 1559-60. He mentions wife's brother Thomas Whittacre, sons Roland and Thomas and daughter *Tymothy*. His wife Margaret was buried at South Ockenden, co. Essex, 20 Sept., 1557, and his son Thomas d. s. p. about the end of the year 1557, his will being dated 2 Dec., 1577, and proved 27 Jan. following.

Roland<sup>11</sup> Cotton, only surviving son of George, was instructed in the law under the charge of his relative John Cotton, and removed to Derby, where he married 16 Aug., 1582, Mary Hurlbert; and dying in 1604 was buried in the church-yard of St Alkmund's.

His children's baptisms recorded in that church are as follows,—

Mary,<sup>12</sup> bapt. 1 Sept., 1583; m. 3 Aug., 1608.  
Robert Bamford.

John,<sup>12</sup> bapt. 15 Dec., 1584.

Roland,<sup>12</sup> bapt. 17 March, 1587-8.

Thomas,<sup>12</sup> bapt. 19 May, 1594.

His will, dated 29 Jan., 1603-4, mentions these four children and his wife. Nothing more is known of these younger sons; though Mr. Somerby thinks from the similarity of the arms, that one was the Thomas Cotton of Boston, whose will was proved 15 May, 1646, and mentions wife Mary, and kinswoman Bridget Gill. Thomas Cotton m. Mary Gill at Boston, 1 May, 1624, but probably left no issue.

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John<sup>12</sup> Cotton, born in Dec., 1584, was placed at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree of A. B., in January, 1602-3, and of A. M. in 1606. From Trinity he removed to Emmanuel College, where he took his degree of Bachelor of Divinity. In 1612 he was inducted Vicar of the church of St. Botolph, in Boston, co. Line., and on the 3d July, 1613, he married at Balsham, co. Camb., Elizabeth Horrocks.

By this wife Cotton had no children, and she dying about 1631, he married at Boston, 25 April, 1632, Sarah, daughter of Anthony Hawkridge, and widow of William Story. The marriage is recorded as of John Cotton and Sarah Story, but we shall hereafter show that she was doubtless a widow, as in fact Cotton Mather terms her.

In the *Magnalia*, Mather adds the following touches :

“ Our John Cotton, besides the advantage of his Christian profession, had a descent from honorable progenitors to render him doubly honorable. His immediate progenitors being by some injustice deprived of great revenues,

his father, Mr. Rowland Cotton, had the education of a lawyer bestowed by his friends upon him, in hopes of his being the better capacitated thereby to recover the estate, whereof his family had been wronged; and so the profession of a lawyer was that unto which this gentleman applied himself all his days." "Settled now at Boston, his dear friend, holy Mr. Bayns, recommended unto him a pious gentlewoman, one Mrs. Elizabeth Horrocks, the wife of Mr. James Horrocks, a famous minister in Lancashire, to become his consort in a married estate." "Nevertheless by the same sickness, he then lost his excellent wife, who having lived with him childless for eighteen years, went from him now to be forever with the Lord; whereupon he travelled further a field, unto London and some other places, whereby the recovery of his lost health was further perfected. About a year after this, he practically appeared in opposition to Tertullianism by proceeding unto a second marriage; wherein one Mrs. Sarah Story, a virtuous widow very dear to his former wife, became his consort; and by her he had both sons and daughters."

Cotton had gradually become attached to the reforming portion of the Church of England, and at last letters missive was issued against him from the High Commission Court. His friends were unable to protect him, and by their advice he decided to seek shelter in New England. He arrived at Boston, Sept. 3, 1633, in company with Rev. Thomas Hooker and Rev. Samuel Stone, and about two hundred passengers, "men of good estates." On the 10th of October he was ordained Teacher of the First Church, John Wilson being the Pastor thereof; and this office he held till his death, Dec. 23d, 1654.

During this long period of nearly twenty years, Cotton was one of the most important actors in our history. His advice was always sought, and his counsels often prevailed. In the two exciting controversies with Roger Williams and Mrs. Anne Hutchinson he was conspicuous, and has naturally incurred blame as well as praise for his action. One custom of his indeed became universal here, as Mather writes: "The Sabbath he began the evening before: for which keeping of the Sabbath from evening to evening, he wrote arguments before his coming to New England: and I suppose that 'twas from his reason and practice that the Christians of New England have generally done so too."

His published books are numerous, and several of them have been reprinted for their historical interest.

#### AMERICAN GENEALOGY.

1. John<sup>12</sup> Cotton had children by his second wife, Sarah, only, and these were the following:

2. Seaborn,<sup>13</sup> b. 1633.

Sarah,<sup>13</sup> b. 12 Sept., 1635; d. 20 Jan., 1650.

Elizabeth,<sup>13</sup> b. 9 Dec., 1637; m. Jeremiah Eg-  
ginton.

3. John,<sup>13</sup> b. 15 March, 1640.

Maria,<sup>13</sup> b. 16 Feb., 1642; m. Rev. Increase  
Mather.

Rowland,<sup>13</sup> b. Dec., 1643; d. 29 Feb., 1650.

He died 15 or 23 Dec., 1652. His widow m. 26 Aug., 1656, Richard Mather, and died 27 May, 1676.

2. Rev. Seaborn<sup>13</sup> Cotton m. 1st, Dorothy Bradstreet, and had, with several daughters, a son, Rev. John<sup>14</sup> of

Hampton, father of Rev. Thomas<sup>15</sup> of Brookline. He married 2nd. Prudence Wade, and had a son Rowland,<sup>14</sup> who settled in England.

3. Rev. John<sup>14</sup> Cotton, younger son of the first minister, was of Wethersfield, Guilford, and finally of Charleston, S. C., where he died 18 Sept., 1699. He married Joanna Rossiter, and had sons, John,<sup>15</sup> Rowland,<sup>15</sup> Josiah,<sup>15</sup> and Theophilus.<sup>15</sup>

Of these, Rev. John<sup>15</sup> was of Yarmouth, and left six daughters: and Rev. Theophilus<sup>15</sup> was of Hampton Falls, was married, but left no children. Rowland<sup>15</sup> and Josiah<sup>15</sup> both left large families, and the number of their descendants must be very large. A tabular pedigree is given in the first volume of the Register, and another in the folio edition of Drake's History of Boston. We have room, however, only for one branch, that of the gentleman to whose liberality we are indebted for these thorough researches in England.

Elizabeth<sup>15</sup> Cotton married 1st. Rev. James Alling, and 2nd. Rev. Caleb Cushing of Salisbury, Mass. She was undoubtedly a grand-daughter of Rev. John C., of Boston, though accounts differ as to whether she was the daughter of Seaborn or John. SAVAGE is inclined to consider her the daughter of Seaborn and Dorothy (Bradstreet) Cotton. By her first husband she had three daughters, all of whom were married.

She married 14 March, 1697-8, Rev. Caleb Cushing of Salisbury, son of the first John Cushing, of a family recorded in our second volume, p. 123-4. Their children were,

Caleb,<sup>1</sup> b. 10 Oct., 1703.



James,<sup>15</sup> b. 25 Nov., 1705; min. of Plaistow, d. 13 May, 1764.

John,<sup>15</sup> b. 10 April, 1709; min. of Boxford, d. 25 Jan., 1772, leaving issue.

Joanna.<sup>15</sup>

Mary.<sup>16</sup>

Elizabeth.<sup>16</sup>

He died 24 Feb., 1752, aged 80.

Hon. Caleb<sup>16</sup> Cushing of Salisbury was Col. of the Essex Regiment, of the Council, and C. J. Court of Common Pleas. He married Mary, dau. of Rev. John Newmarch of Kittery, Me., and had, with four daughters, Benjamin,<sup>17</sup> bapt. 20 Jan., 1739.

Caleb,<sup>17</sup> bapt. 23 Sept., 1750, d. unm.

Benjamin<sup>17</sup> Cushing of Salisbury m. Dec. 17, 1767, Hannah Hazeltine, and had—

Hannah,<sup>18</sup> b. 30 March, 1769.

Caleb,<sup>18</sup> b. 21 May, 1770.

Mary,<sup>18</sup> b. 11 May, 1772.

Benjamin,<sup>18</sup> b. 21 June, 1776.

John Newmarch,<sup>18</sup> b. 18 May, 1779; d. 5 Jan., 1849, father of Hon. Caleb Cushing.

Nathaniel,<sup>18</sup> b. 29 July, 1782.

Mary, b. 22 March, 1789.

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#### HAWKRIDGE FAMILY.

In relation of the second wife of Rev. John Cotton, "the widow Story," Mr. Somerby has discovered the following facts:

She was undoubtedly the Sarah Hawkrit who married William Storey at Boston, Eng., 1 May, 1619; and her first husband was buried there 16 March, 1627-8. Her marriage to John Cotton was 25 April, 1632. By her first marriage she had a daughter, Elizabeth Story, bapt. 11 June, 1622, who doubtless married a person named Day, and had at least one daughter named Elizabeth Day, who m. a Symonds. This is rendered positive, as John Cotton mentions dau. Elizabeth, and grand-daughter Betty Day; Rev. Richard Mather mentions his wife's grand-daughter, Elizabeth Day, and Sarah (Cotton) Mather, mentions her grand-daughter, Elizabeth Symonds, and mentions also a Sarah Symonds. SAVAGE believes that this grand-daughter was the wife of Harlakenden Symonds.

As to the parentage of Sarah Hawkrit, Hawkridge or Hawkredd, as the name is variously spelt, it seems clear that she was the daughter of Anthony H., of Boston. Rev. John Cotton in his will mentions "my brother Coney," and his wife Mary.

The will of Anthony Hawkredd, dated Aug. 12, 1626, mentions sons Anthony, John, and Samuel, Mary, wife of Thomas Coney, and Elizabeth, wife of John Coney. Though Sarah is not mentioned, she is evidently another daughter. It seems that Hawkredd had been twice married. His second wife was a widow Ascough, and his first was a Tuckney, aunt of Anthony Tuckney, who succeeded John Cotton at Boston. Tuckney was thus first cousin to Cotton's wife, Sarah Hawkridge.















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